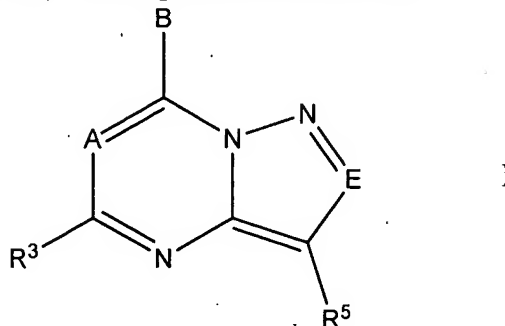


IN THE CLAIMS

9. (Previously amended) A compound of the formula



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

the dashed lines represent optional double bonds;

A is nitrogen or CH, or CCH₃

B -CR¹R²R¹⁰ -C(=CR²R¹¹)R¹, -NHCR¹R²R¹⁰, -OCR¹R²R¹⁰, -SCR¹R²R¹⁰, -CR²R¹⁰ NHR¹, -CR²R¹⁰OR¹, -CR²R¹⁰SR¹ or -COR²;

E is selected from CR⁴, C=O, C=S, sulfur, oxygen, CR⁴R⁶ and NR⁸;

G is carbon;

R¹ is C₁-C₆ alkyl optionally substituted with one or two substituents independently selected from hydroxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, -O-(C₁-C₄ alkyl), CF₃, -C(=O)O-(C₁-C₄alkyl), -OC(=O)(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -OC(=O)N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -NHCO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -COOH, -COO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -CONH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -CON(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -S(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -CN, -NO₂, -SO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -SO₂(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -SO₂NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl) and -SO₂N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), wherein each of the C₁-C₄ alkyl groups in the foregoing R¹ groups may optionally contain one or two double or triple bonds;

R² is C₁-C₁₂ alkyl which may optionally contain from one to three double or triple bonds, aryl or (C₁-C₄ alkylene)aryl, wherein said aryl and the aryl moiety of said (C₁-C₄ alkylene)aryl is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, thienyl, benzothienyl, pyridyl, quinolyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, imidazolyl, furanyl, benzofuranyl, benzothiazolyl,

isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, indolyl, pyrrolopyridyl, oxazolyl and benzoxazolyl; C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl or (C₁-C₆ alkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl), wherein one or two of the carbon atoms of said cycloalkyl and the 5 to 8 membered cycloalkyl moieties of said (C₁-C₆ alkylene)(C₃-C₈ cycloalkyl) may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by NZ² wherein Z² is selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, benzyl and C₁-C₄ alkanoyl, and wherein each of the foregoing R² groups may optionally be substituted with from one to three substituents independently selected from chloro, fluoro, hydroxy and C₁-C₄ alkyl, or with one substituent selected from bromo, iodo, C₁-C₆ alkoxy, -OC(=O)(C₁-C₆ alkyl), -OC(=O)N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -S(C₁-C₆ alkyl), amino, -NH(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -N(C₁-C₂ alkyl)(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)-CO-(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -NHCO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -COOH, -COO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -CONH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -CON(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -SH, -CN, -NO₂, -SO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -SO₂(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -SO₂NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl) and -SO₂N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl);

-NR¹R² or CR¹R²R¹⁰ may form a saturated 3 to 8 membered carbocyclic ring which may optionally contain from one to three double bonds and wherein one or two of the ring carbon atoms of such 5 to 8 membered rings may optionally and independently be replaced by an oxygen or sulfur atom or by NZ³ wherein Z³ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, benzyl or C₁-C₄ alkanoyl;

R³ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, -O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), chloro, fluoro, bromo, iodo, (C₁-C₂ alkylene)-O-(C₁-C₂ alkyl), (C₁-C₂ alkylene)-OH, or -S(C₁-C₄ alkyl);

each R⁴ is, independently, hydrogen, (C₁-C₆ alkyl), fluoro, chloro, bromo, iodo, hydroxy, cyano, amino, (C₁-C₂ alkylene)-OH, CF₃, CH₂SCH₃, nitro, -O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -N(C₁-C₄ alkyl)(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -S(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -CO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -C(=O)H or -C(=O)O(C₁-C₄alkyl);

R⁶ is hydrogen, methyl or ethyl;

R⁸ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl;

R⁵ is phenyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidyl, pyridazinyl and wherein each of the foregoing R⁵ groups is substituted with from one to four substituents R¹³ wherein one to three of said substituents may be selected, independently, from fluoro, chloro, C₁-C₆ alkyl

and -O(C₁-C₆ alkyl) and one of said substituents may be selected from bromo, iodo, formyl, OH, (C₁-C₄ alkylene)-OH, (C₁-C₄alkylene)-O-(C₁-C₂ alkyl), -CN, -CF₃, -NO₂, -NH₂, -NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -N(C₁-C₂ alkyl)(C₁-C₆ alkyl), -OCO(C₁-C₄ alkyl), (C₁-C₄ alkylene)-O-(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -S(C₁-C₆ alkyl), (C₁-C₄ alkylene)-S-(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -C(=O)O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -C(=O)(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -COOH, -SO₂NH(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -SO₂N(C₁-C₂ alkyl)(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -SO₂NH₂, -NHSO₂(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -S(C₁-C₆ alkyl) and -SO₂(C₁-C₆ alkyl), and wherein each of the C₁-C₄ alkyl and C₁-C₆ alkyl moieties in the foregoing R⁵ groups may optionally have one or two double bonds;

R⁷ is hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, chloro, fluoro, iodo, bromo, hydroxy, -O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -C(=O)(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -C(=O)O(C₁-C₄ alkyl), -OCF₃, -CF₃, -CH₂OH or -CH₂O(C₁-C₂ alkyl);

R¹⁰ is, hydroxy, methoxy or fluoro;

R¹¹ is hydrogen or C₁-C₄ alkyl and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts of such compounds.

10. (Deleted)

11. (Previously Amended) A compound according to claim 9 wherein E is CH, CCH₃ or CC₂H₅.

18. (Deleted)

19. (Previously Amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treating or preventing a disorder or condition, the treatment or prevention of which can be effected or facilitated by inhibiting CRH binding protein in a mammal, comprising a CRH binding protein inhibiting amount of a compound according to claim 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (Deleted)

23. (Deleted)